

Dear Friends,

What a momentous time beckons!

Yes, we had the joy, tinged with some sadness, with the departure of Deacon Anita, as she 'sits down' and leaves active ministry for Barrow-in-Furness. Her enthusiasm, especially for the work with the children, was more than tangible. We wish her every blessing in what God calls for her to do next - after a wee rest...

We also have the great joy of welcoming Revd Brain Magadzire to us. Residing in Netherton, but in pastoral charge of Netherton, New Stevenston and East Kilbride, Brain is ministering to these 3 developing churches, each with their own way and with their creative outreach into the community. We pray for him and his family as they join us, and look forward to his welcome service on Sunday the 3rd of September at 6:30pm at East Kilbride.

Recently we had the inauguration of Ebenezer Methodist Church joining us with their lively forms of worship. Some churches, such as Shettleston, are sadly closing and, within the time of this Plan, we are expecting Partick to 'cease to worship' as they move across to worship together, ecumenically, with the local Church of Scotland church.

Nevertheless, there is the joining together of Glasgow West: where Anniesland, Clydebank and Partick merge but seek to continue with the three centres of worship. As I said, momentous times.

Such times may question our faith, others may ask who is this Jesus we worship. Perhaps, now is the time to ponder, to explain to others in simple ways, without complex Biblical phrases, exactly what makes us tick. Jesus kept talking about the kingdom as here on Earth, whereas many who are outside the church wonder how they might guarantee their entry into a Heaven. They strive to do more and more just to qualify, it's like a transaction. Contrary to many people's opinions Jesus didn't come to die but came to live - to teach, to heal, to tell stories, to protest, to turn over tables, to eat with people who weren't supposed to be eaten with, to break bread, to pour wine, to wash feet, to tick off authorities, to forgive, and to show us and others what God's kingdom is like. Jesus shows us how to love enemies - to live.

Can we find that hope in Jesus and *encourage others* that Jesus shows all of us how to live, to flourish, and be with a God that so desires to express that love to all?

Yours,
Bob